



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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JANUARY PROCLAIMED NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH
Bringing Awareness to a Serious Crime

PHOENIX – Earlier this month, Governor Janet Napolitano proclaimed January 2006 as Stalking Awareness Month in Arizona. The state is among the first in the nation to observe Stalking Awareness Month and bring attention to this serious crime.

National Stalking Awareness Month across the country is as an opportunity to educate the public about this pervasive crime that affects nearly 1.4 million Americans a year. Stalking is often a violent and sometimes a potentially deadly crime. While women are stalked more often than men, no one is immune from being stalked. Seventy-six percent of women killed by intimate partners were stalked prior to the murder. The seriousness of stalking has been gaining increased awareness, and over the past 15 years, every state and the District of Columbia has passed legislation that has made stalking a crime.

Upon issuing the proclamation that created Stalking Awareness Month, Governor Napolitano emphasized her concern for stalking and its victims, "Stalking is a very serious crime and Stalking Awareness Month is an excellent opportunity to raise the awareness to the citizens of Arizona of the severity of this crime."

Last year, Governor Napolitano signed important legislation to protect both stalking and domestic violence victims from having their home residences listed on public web sites that previously showed victims residence addresses. The Governor's Advisor for Victims, Dan Levey, realizes the dangers of stalking, "Stalking is often invisible to everyone except the intended victim."

Stalking Awareness Month was motivated by the story of Peggy Klinke, a stalking victim who was murdered by an ex-boyfriend after repeatedly seeking law enforcement intervention. Arizona's own Judie Dilday was herself a victim of stalking whose case was successfully prosecuted and now serves as an advocate for stalking victims. Judie explains that, "until you are victim, there is no real understanding what stalking is."

The United States Department of Justice's Stalking Resource Center educates the public about the dangers of stalking by publishing materials and maintaining a toll-free hotline. Victims of stalking who may need resources may contact the Governor's Advisor for Victims at 602-542-4043.